Issue of identity cards

1867. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would instruct the BSNL authorities in empowering District Telecommunication Authorities in India to issue identity cards to the non-official Telecommunication Advisory Committee's Members, mentioning the period for which they are nominated in view of Members facing humiliating situations before BSNL employees, when they visit various BSNL offices;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would raise the present allowance of Rs. 200/- to at least Rs. 500/- which is the minimum taxi/car fare required for each sitting of every local non-official member of Telephone Advisory Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In the existing guidelines, there is no provision of issue of Identity cards to TAC members.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The local non-official members are required to make local journey only to reach TAC meeting venue and existing ceiling appears to be quite enough to meet the expenses of local journey.

Estimation of tiger population by NBWL

1868. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the on-going estimation of tiger population in the country by the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has indicated that only 1300-1500 tigers are left in the country;

(b) whether a study by the Wildlife Institute of India has established that much of the loss in tiger population is in forests outside the national parks and sanctuaries;

(c) whether the conservationists allege that the Forest Rights Act in its present form is not conducive to conservation of wildlife; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology standardized by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (erstwhile Project Tiger) and the Wildlife Institute of India, as endorsed by the Tiger Task Force from November, 2005. So far, the tiger estimation figures relating to only four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) have been finalized, which indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas.